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MARVEL TEAM-UP

FEATURING

SPIDER-MAN

AND THE

DAUGHTERS OF THE DRAGON!



SHOWDOWN
WITH THE
STEEL
SERPENT!

IF DEATH
BE MY
DESTINY!



Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **SPIDEY AND THE DAUGHTERS OF THE DRAGON!**

CHRIS CLAREMONT
AUTHOR

JOHN BYRNE
ARTIST

DAVE HUNT
INKER/COLORIST

BRUCE PATTERSON
LETTERER

ARCHIE GOODWIN
EDITOR

IF DEATH BE MY DESTINY...



THE TIME IS ABOUT
TWENTY MINUTES AFTER
THE END OF LAST ISSUE.
THE PLACE: COLLEEN
WING'S INWOOD
APARTMENT...

THE
SITUATION...
IS GRAVE.

THE BEST THING
WE CAN DO IS
LET HIM REST--
WE CAN TALK
OUTSIDE.

MISTY WILL
GIVE A YELL
IF HIS CONDITION
CHANGES.

HOW'S IRON
FIST DOING,
DOC? HE LOOKS
PRETTY ROCKY--
SHOULDN'T WE
BE...



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COLLEEN, YOU SAID ON THE PHONE THAT IRON FIST WAS NEAR DEATH WHEN MISTY AND SPIDER-MAN BROUGHT HIM IN.

HE WAS. HE IS.

NOT ACCORDING TO MY EXAMINATION.

SURE, THE KID LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN IN A FIGHT, BUT THE ACTUAL PHYSICAL DAMAGE IS MINIMAL. BY RIGHTS, HE SHOULD BE UP AND AROUND IN NO TIME.

THE BODY ISN'T EVERYTHING, ALICE. THERE'S ALSO HIS SPIRIT.

I'M A DOCTOR, NOT A WITCH. I DON'T KNOW FROM SPIRITS...

I UNDERSTAND. THANKS FOR HELPING, THOUGH. AND THANK JERYN HOGARTH FOR SENDING YOU OVER SO PROMPTLY...

...NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

HAVE IT YOUR WAY, THEN. I'LL BE BACK TO CHECK ON HIM IN THE MORNING.

COLLEEN, I'M NO MIRACLE WORKER. THERE'S A LIMIT TO WHAT I CAN DO WITHOUT PROPER FACILITIES.

IRON FIST SHOULD BE IN A HOSPITAL.

GOOD NIGHT, ALICE. AND THANKS AGAIN.

THE LADY'S RIGHT, Y'KNOW. IT SEEMS KIND OF SILLY TO WORRY ABOUT IRON FIST'S "SECRET" IDENTITY WHEN HIS LIFE IS ON THE LINE.

IT'S NOT YOUR CHOICE TO MAKE, HERO.

IS IT YOURS, COLLEEN?

YES.

BESIDES, NO HOSPITAL CAN HELP HIM NOW.

I'M NOT SURE ANYTHING CAN.



SINCE I KNOW WHAT
MY SOCKS SMELL
LIKE--

--I
THINK I'VE
GOT A
BETTER
IDEA.

LOOK, MA,
NO HANDS!

CUTE.

NOW D'YOU
MIND TELLING ME
WHAT THE BLAZES
IS GOING ON?!

"THERE ISN'T MUCH I'M AFRAID
WHEN I CAME ON THE SCENE,
IRON FIST WAS TRADING PUNCHES
WITH THIS STEEL SERPENT
DUDE. HE AND IRON FIST GOT IN
SOME SORT OF BEAR HUG...

"...AND THE TWO OF
THEM BEGAN TO
GLOW LIKE
HUMAN STARS.

"SUDDENLY, THERE WAS
SOME SORT OF EXPLOSION
THAT SMASHED IRON
FIST TO THE GROUND.

"THAT'S WHAT
I SAW. I
DON'T KNOW
WHAT IT
MEANS."*

*A SOMEWHAT CONDENSED
VERSION OF THE CLIMAX OF
LAST ISSUE--ARCHIVIST ARCHIE.

IT MEANS
STEEL SERPENT
HAS STOLEN THE
POWER OF THE
IRON FIST FROM
DANNY. AND WITH
IT, HIS CHI--
HIS IMMORTAL
SOUL.

HE'S
SLEEPING
NOW, BUT HE'S
SLIPPING
AWAY.

MISTY
KNIGHT!

STILL CAN'T GET OVER
THE FEELING THAT I'VE
MET HER BEFORE--IF
I COULD ONLY
REMEMBER WHERE?!

WHAT'S
WITH THE
CANNON,
LADY?

I'M A PRIVATE
EYE, HERO. THE GUN'S
A TOOL OF THE TRADE.
YOU READY, COL?

WAIT A MINUTE! YOU'RE NOT GOING AFTER SCAR-FACE, ARE YOU? 'CAUSE IF YOU ARE, YOU'RE CRAZY!

IT'S IRON FIST'S ONLY HOPE, SPIDEY. WE'VE GOT TO BRING HIM AND STEEL SERPENT TOGETHER, TRY TO REVERSE THE PROCESS OF TRANSFERRAL...

YOU ARE CRAZY!

D'YOU THINK SCAR-FACE IS JUST GONNA STAND AROUND AND LET YOU ZAP HIM? IF THE POWER HE STOLE CAN BE RESTORED TO IRON FIST--

--HE'LL DO ANYTHING TO STOP YOU. HE'LL NEVER BE SAFE SO LONG AS IRON FIST LIVES...

OH, LADIES, I JUST HAD A VERY BAD THOUGHT.

"UNLESS I READ MY VILLAINS VERY WRONG, WE WON'T HAVE TO GO LOOKING FOR THE CREEP.

"HE'LL BE COMING FOR US-- AND IRON FIST-- AND SOON!"

"AN' I THINK IT'LL TAKE MORE 'N A POP-GUN AN' A KING-SIZE STEAK KNIFE TO STOP HIM."

OUTCAST--EVEN AFTER MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS, THE NAME STILL SEARS HIS SOUL.

IT WASN'T ALWAYS THAT WAY.

HE'D BEEN THE FIRST-BORN SON OF LEI KUNG THE THUNDERER...

THE POWER-- IT FEELS SO... GOOD WITHIN ME, AS I ALWAYS KNEW IT WOULD.

AND ONCE I'VE SLAIN IRON FIST, IT WILL BE MINE FOR ALL TIME I--THE OUTCAST OF K'UN-LUN--WILL BECOME INVINCIBLE!

...AND FROM THE BEGINNING, DAVOS KNEW HE'D BEEN MARKED FOR GREATNESS...

...KNEW--IN HIS HEART OF HEARTS--
THAT HE WAS THE CHOSEN ONE OF LEGEND,
THE ONE DESTINED TO BECOME...

IRON FIST!

THERE IS THE
RITUAL GARB, MY
SON. I PRAY THE GODS
WILL FIND YOU
WORTHY OF IT.

THEY
WILL, MY
FATHER.

IN ALL K'UN-LUN, ONLY ONE MAN WAS
DAVOS' EQUAL: WENDELL RAND-K'AI,
FIRST-BORN SON OF TUAN, WHO WAS
THEN YU-TI, THE
AUGUST PERSONAGE
IN JADE...

ONE OF THEM--WENDELL OR
DAVOS--WOULD FACE THE
UNDYING DRAGON, SHOU-LAO...

...THAT ONE TO BE
DETERMINED BY A
TEST OF COMBAT.

AND WHEN
THE TEST
WAS OVER...

YIELD, DAVOS--THIS IS
NO DEATH-DUEL, AND
YOU'VE EARNED HONOR
ENOUGH FOR A
HUNDRED MEN.

YIELD!

N-NEVER.

ENOUGH!

THE YAMA-
KINGS AND I
HAVE NO WISH
TO SEE A
WARRIOR OF K'UN-
LUN BEATEN TO A
PULP BECAUSE
HIS PRIDE WILL
NOT LET HIM
ADMIT
DEFEAT.

WENDELL RAND-K'AI IS VICTOR HERE. HE HAS
EARNED THE RIGHT TO FACE SHOU-LAO. YOU
HAVE FOUGHT WELL, DAVOS; BE CONTENT WITH...

NO!!

DAVOS.
BE SILENT!

THE DUEL CANNOT
END--I STILL STAND! YOU
DO THIS ONLY BECAUSE
WENDELL RAND-K'AI
IS YOUR SON!

SILENCE WILL
NOT CHANGE
THE TRUTH.

THE TRUTH
IS THAT YOU
WERE FAIRLY
BEATEN--

--AND THAT
YOUR WORDS HAVE
SHAMED US ALL!

LEI KUNG SENT HIM TO THE TOWER OF MEDITATION, BUT DAVOS NEVER ARRIVED THERE.

INSTEAD, HE TREKKED OUT OF THE ETERNAL CITY TOWARDS THE TOWERING ESCARPMENT THAT SHELTERED AND PROTECTED K'UN-LUN FROM THE WORLD AROUND IT.

TOWARDS, FINALLY, A DOOR SET INTO A WALL OF GLEAMING CRYSTAL.

ARCHAIC ONE, HEAR THE WORDS OF DAVOS, SON OF LEI KUNG THE THUNDERER!

FACE ME, IF YOU DARE--FOR I HAVE COME TO TAKE YOUR HEART!

FOR A MOMENT, THERE WAS SILENCE.

THEN, WITH THE SPEED OF THOUGHT, THE ANCIENT DRAGON APPEARED AND ATTACKED.



AARRGH!

SHOU-LAO DREW FIRST BLOOD, MARKING DAVOS WITH A SCAR HE WOULD WEAR TILL THE DAY HE DIED.

BUT DAVOS KNEW THE DRAGON'S SECRET.



HE USED HIS BODY TO BLOCK THE POWER FLOWING FROM SHOU-LAO'S HEART WITHIN THE CHAMBER TO THE DRAGON BRAND ON ITS SINIGOUS BODY.

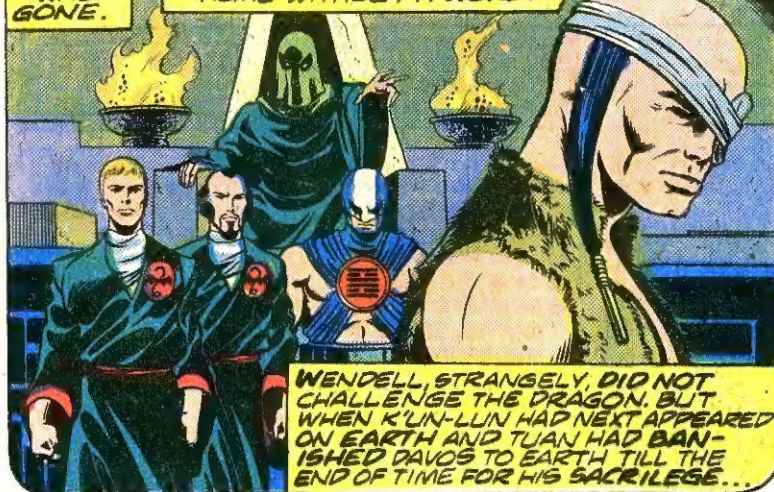
BUT HE COULDN'T HOLD ON LONG ENOUGH--THE PAIN WAS TOO GREAT.

THE DRAGON LOOKED AT HIM A MOMENT, CONTEMPT IN ITS GREAT, GOLDEN EYES...



...AND THEN IT WAS GONE.

LEI KUNG FOUND HIM WEeping IN THE SNOW AND TOOK HIM HOME WITHOUT A WORD.



WENDELL, STRANGELY, DID NOT CHALLENGE THE DRAGON. BUT WHEN K'UN-LUN HAD NEXT APPEARED ON EARTH AND TUAN HAD BANISHED DAVOS TO EARTH TILL THE END OF TIME FOR HIS SACRILEGE...

...WENDELL HAD FOLLOWED FOR REASONS OF HIS OWN.



SINCE THEN, TUAN HAD DIED, WENDELL'S BROTHER SUCCEEDED HIM AS YU-TI. WENDELL HAD Sired A SON AND DIED THAT SON HAD BECOME IRON FIST. AND DAVOS HAD WAITED, WATCHED, PLANNED...

...AND NOW, HE'S WON!

HEAR ME, WENDELL RAND--
YOU THRISE-DAMNED SHADE!
YOU SOUGHT TO CHEAT ME OF
MY HEART'S DESIRE...

...BUT YOU
FAILED! THE
IRON FIST IS MINE!
AND BEFORE THIS
NIGHT IS ENDED--

--YOUR CURSED
HALF-BREED HUMAN
SON WILL JOIN YOU
IN THE LAND OF
THE DEAD!

HEY, TWINKLE-
TEETH, COOL IT
WITH THE
YELLING!

YOU'LL
WAKE THE
NEIGHBORS.

EH-?!?

I'VE BEEN GRABBED--

--SPIDER-MAN!

HOW
BLINDLY
PERCEPTIVE
OF YOU,
SCAR-FACE.

AN' IN
ABOUT THREE
SECONDS YOU'RE
GONNA GET
PUNCHED AS
WELL--SO DON'T
GO 'WAY!

MISSED!

UNDERESTIMATED
HIS SPEED. I KEEP
THINKING OF HIM AS
A NORMAL GUY--

-- I'M
UNCONSCIOUSLY
PULLING MY
PUNCHES!

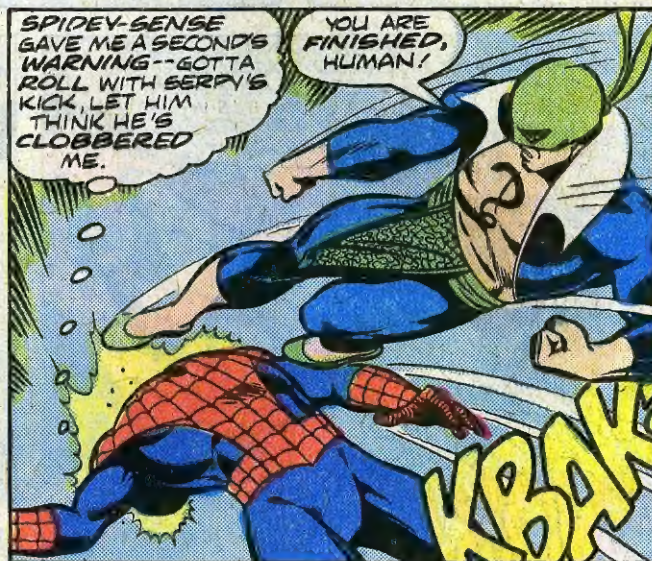
AN' I'VE GOT
A FEELING
THAT'S A
MISTAKE.

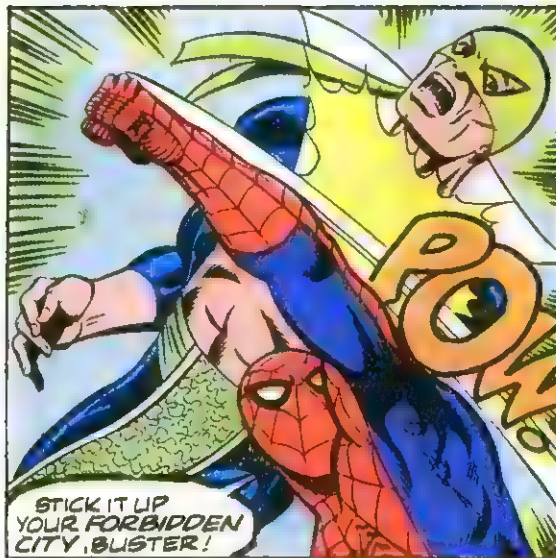
OOO-OO-OFF!

HHULI--!

BOY, AM I
GLAD MY
CAMERA'S OUT
OF FILM. THIS
KIND OF SHOT
JAMESON'D
RUN ON
PAGE 1.

I'D
NEVER
LIVE IT
DOWN.





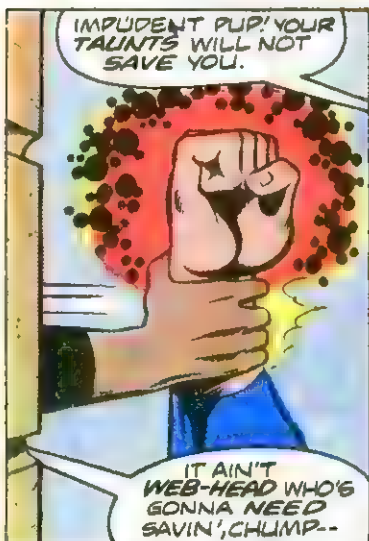
STICK IT UP
YOUR FORBIDDEN
CITY, BUSTER!



INCREDIBLE! NEVER
HAVE I FELT SUCH
A BLOW!

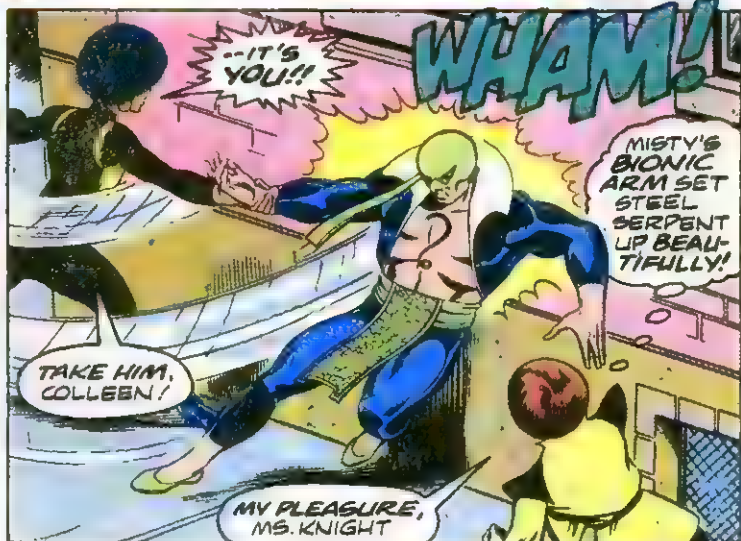
SO TAKE
A HINT, WHY
DON'T CHA?

FALL
DOWN.



IMPUDENT PUP! YOUR
TALINTS WILL NOT
SAVE YOU.

IT AIN'T
WEB-HEAD WHO'S
GONNA NEED
SAVIN', CHUMP--



--IT'S
YOU!!

WHAM!

MISTY'S
BIONIC
ARM SET
STEEL
SERPENT
UP BEAU-
TIFULLY!

TAKE HIM,
COLLEEN!

MY PLEASURE,
MS. KNIGHT

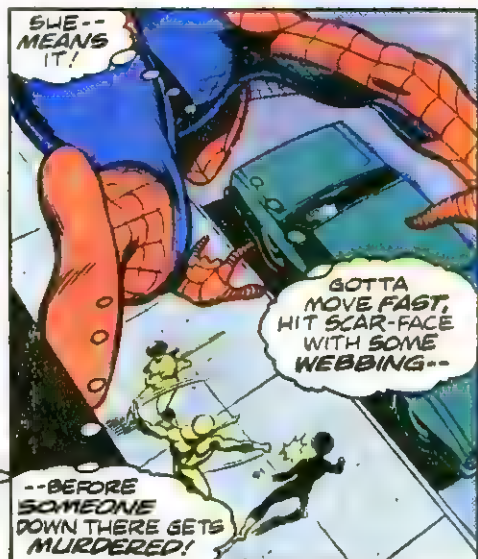


NOW LET'S SEE
IF A LADY SAMURAI
CAN FINISH
THE JOB.

BE THANKFUL WE
NEED YOU ALIVE,
FELLA, ELSE I'D NOT
BE STRIKING WITH
A SCABBARDED
SWORD--

SHOK!

--BUT WITH
NAKED STEEL!

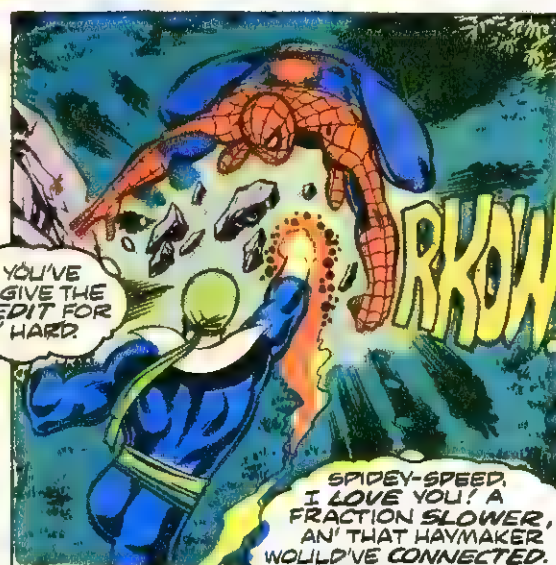
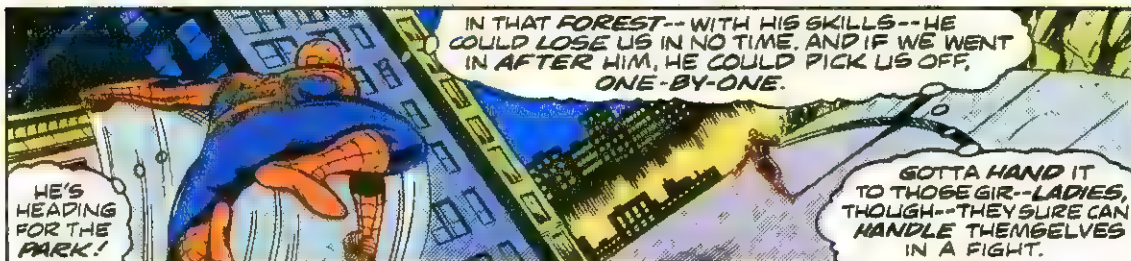
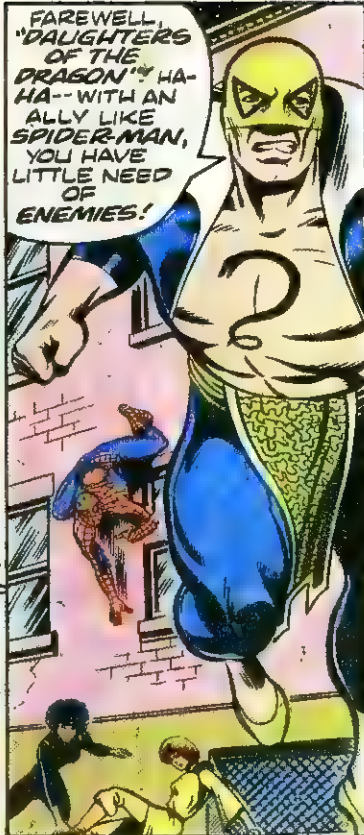
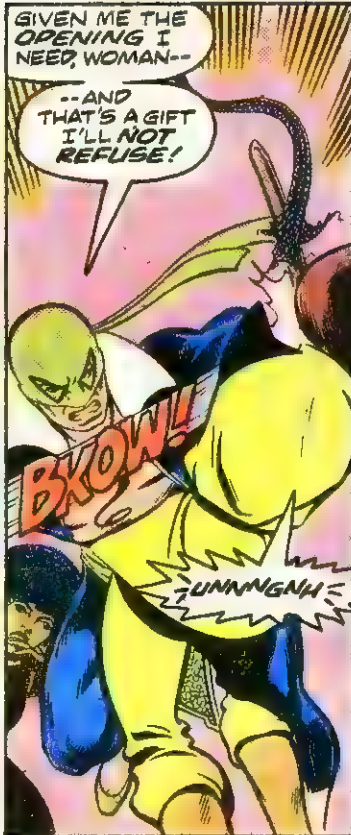


SHE--
MEANS
IT!

GOTTA
MOVE FAST,
HIT SCAR-FACE
WITH SOME
WEBBING--

--BEFORE
SOMEONE
DOWN THERE GETS
MURDERED!

UNFORTUNATELY, EVEN THE BEST-LAID PLANS OF MICE AND (SPIDER-)MEN...



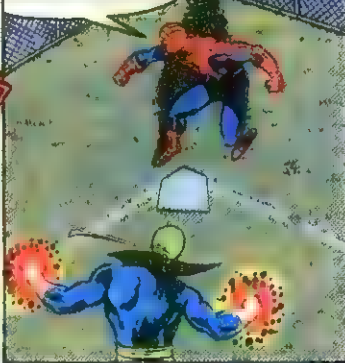
BUT NOW THAT SCAR-FACE IS OFF-BALANCE, I'VE GOT A CHANCE TO LAND SOME HAYMAKERS OF MY OWN!



SO IT GOES--SPIDEY STAYING JUST OUT OF STEEL SERPENT'S REACH AS HE LEADS THE VILLAIN A MERRY CHASE THROUGH THE DESERTED PLAYGROUND, UNTIL...

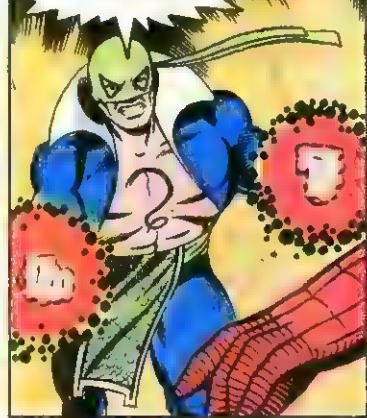
I THINK I MADE A WRONG TURN SOMEWHERE.

UH-OH!

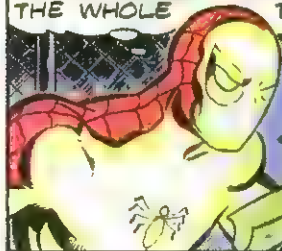


I HAVE YOU, HERO! HEMMED IN BY THE BASEBALL BACKSTOP.

YOU'RE TRAPPED!

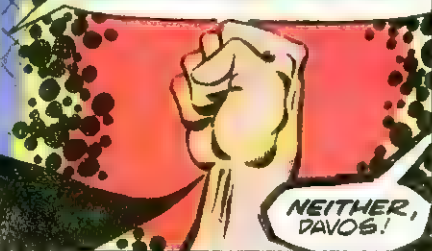


HE'S RIGHT! I CAN'T JUMP THE FENCE FROM THIS ANGLE, AND IF I TRY TO CLIMB IT HE'LL JUST SMASH THE WHOLE THING DOWN.



HAVE TO WAIT TILL THE LAST SECOND AND HOPE I CAN DUCK HIS PUNCH.

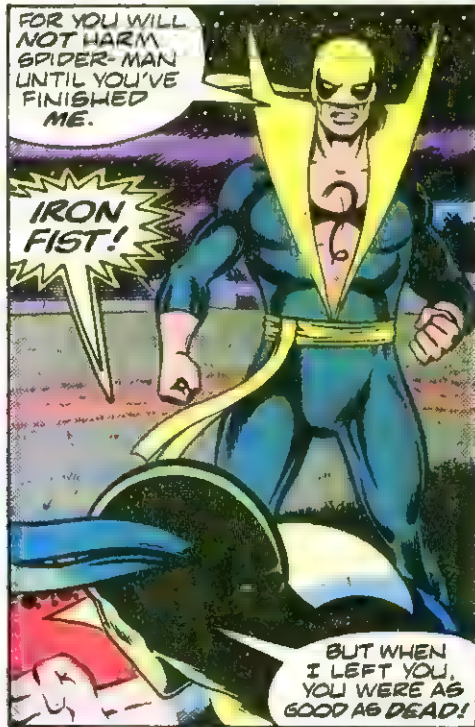
IT'S YOUR VAUNTED SPEED AGAINST MINE, WALL-CRAWLER. WHICH WILL PROVE FASTER...?



NEITHER, DAVOS!

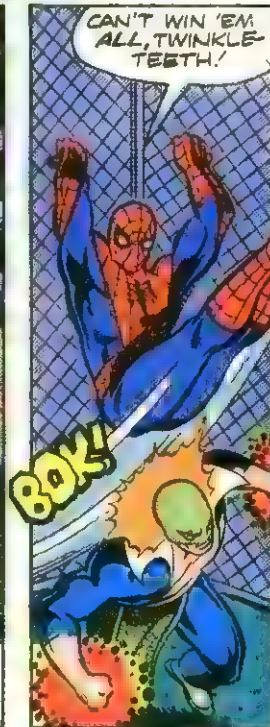
FOR YOU WILL NOT HARM SPIDER-MAN UNTIL YOU'VE FINISHED ME.

IRON FIST!

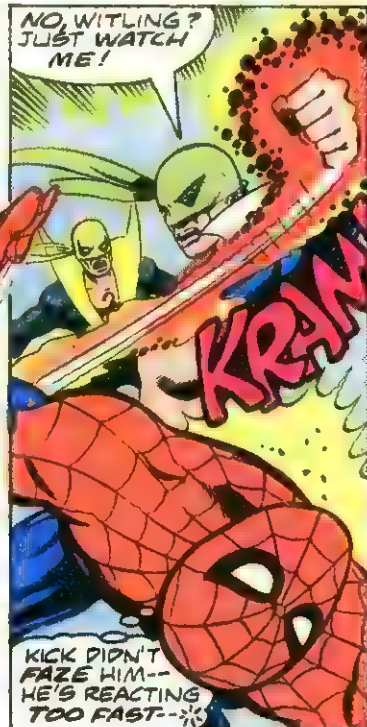


BUT WHEN I LEFT YOU, YOU WERE AS GOOD AS DEAD!

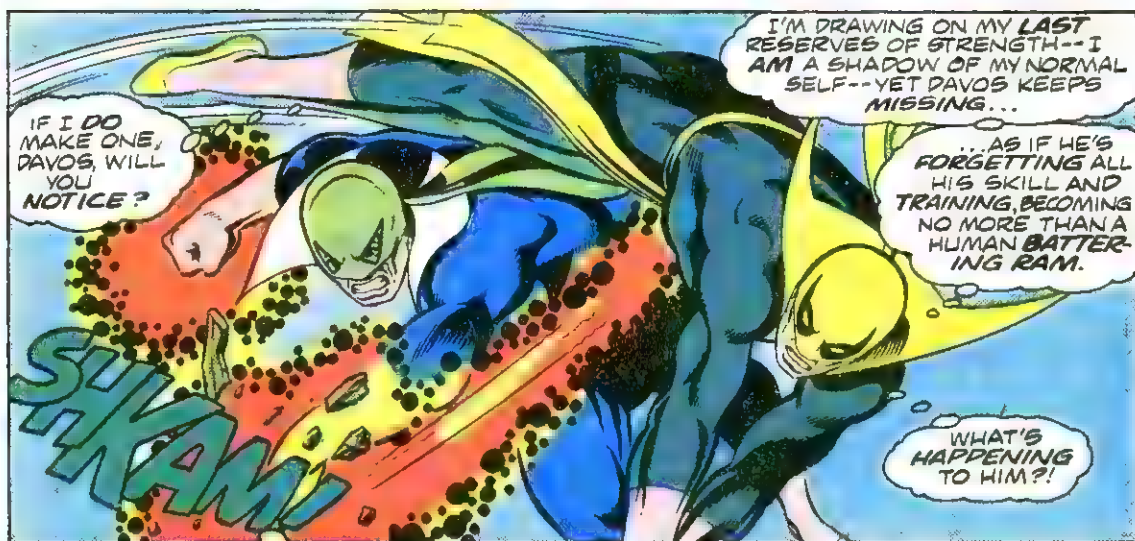
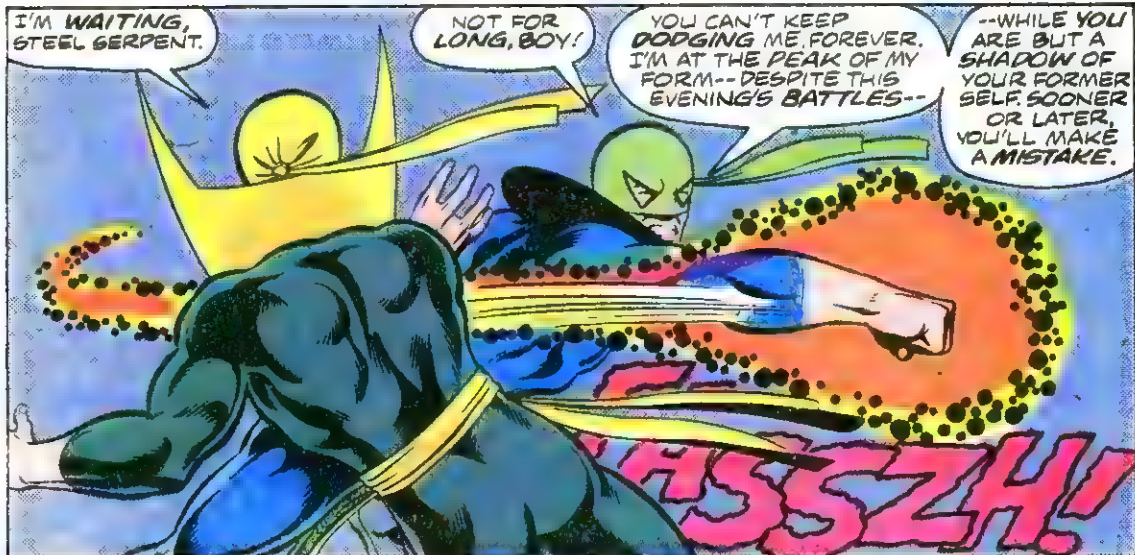
CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL, TWINKLE-TEETH!



NO, WITLING? JUST WATCH ME!



KICK DIDN'T FAZE HIM-- HE'S REACTING TOO FAST--





DAVOS HAS FORGOTTEN THAT-- IF HE EVER KNEW-- AND NOW THE POWER'S TURNING ON HIM, CONSUMING HIM!



ONLY SECONDS LEFT-- HAVE TO TRY TO ABSORB THE POWER BACK INTO MY BODY-- DRAIN DAVOS AS HE DRAINED ME.



DANNY!



IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE THAT ANYONE COULD HAVE SURVIVED THE HOLOCAUST, YET AMID A FIFTY-FOOT CIRCLE OF CHARRED AND BROKEN EARTH...



AND RISES, HIS RIGHT HAND GLOWING WITH THE POWER OF THE IRON FIST...

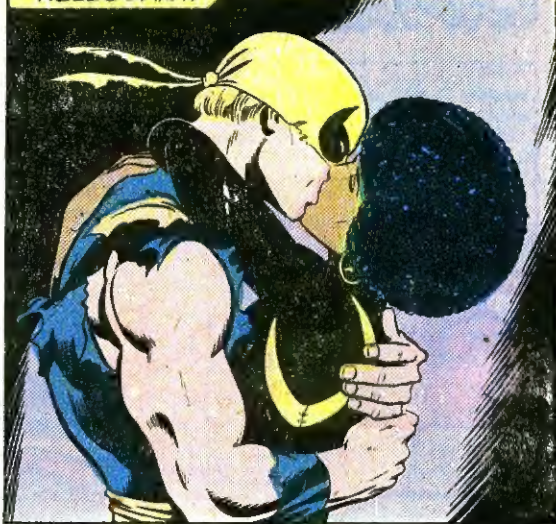


...RETURNED ONCE MORE TO ITS RIGHTFUL MASTER.



DANNY--
OH, GOD,
DANNY!!
YOU'RE ALIVE!
YOU'RE ALL
RIGHT!!

MYSTY RUSHES INTO HIS ARMS, AND FOR THESE TWO, NO MORE WORDS ARE NECESSARY.



HEY UH, IRON FIST, I HATE TO INTRUDE-- AN' I HOPE YOU'LL EXCUSE MY ASKING--

--BUT WHAT HAPPENED?!

TO STEEL SERPENT, YOU MEAN?

THE IRON FIST HAPPENED.

OH, THAT EXPLAINS EVERYTHING.

STRANGELY ENOUGH, IT DOES.

HE WANTED THE IRON FIST MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF-- WITHOUT REALLY KNOWING WHAT IT WAS.

WHEN WE FOUGHT, HE FORGOT WHO HE WAS, WHAT HE WAS-- ALL THAT MATTERED WAS KILLING ME. ANY WAY HE COULD.

HE UNLEASHED THE IRON FIST, BUT PUT NO CHECK ON IT. SO, THE POWER BUILT UP INSIDE HIM, AND WHEN IT FINALLY TURNED ON HIM, HIS WILL WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD IT BACK.

POWER THIS GREAT IS OFTIMES ITS OWN JUDGE, JURY, AND EXECUTIONER. STEEL SERPENT WASN'T WORTHY OF THE IRON FIST, AND HE'S PAID THE PRICE.

C'MON, HOTSHOT. YOU'RE STILL HURT-- WE'D BEST GET YOU HOME AND INTO BED.

MYSTY-- SOMETHING'S BEEN BUGGING ME ALL EVENING...

HAVE WE MET BEFORE?

I WAS WONDERIN' WHEN YOU'D ASK.

WE SURE HAVE, WEB-HEAD. A FEW CHRISTMAS EVES BACK, I GOT JUMPED BY SOME MUGGERS ON MY WAY TO A PARTY IN JERSEY.

YOU AN' SOME DUDE IN A FLYIN' BATHTUB TOOK CARE OF 'EM FOR ME.

THERE'S LAUGHTER NOW, FADING QUICKLY INTO THE NIGHT. AND THEN, FINALLY, THERE'S ONLY... SILENCE.

EPILOGUE:

NESTLED IN A HIGH-MOUNTAIN VALLEY ON AN EARTH THAT IS BOTH LIKE AND UNLIKE OUR OWN STANDS THE IMMORTAL CITY OF K'UN-LUN.

TO SOME, IT IS THE ABODE OF THE GODS. TO OTHERS, THE EMBODIMENT OF A DREAM!

TO A VERY FEW, IT IS SIMPLY HOME. AND AS IN HOMES EVERYWHERE, THERE ARE FATHERS AND SONS, BIRTHS AND DEATHS...

...LOVE AND HATE.

AND GRIEF. EVEN IN AN IMMORTAL CITY, MEN GRIEVE FOR THOSE THEY HAVE LOVED... AND LOST.

LEI KUNG!

MY LORD! FOR--FORGIVE ME, YU-TI, I DID NOT MEAN TO INTRUDE ON YOUR INNER SANCTUM... I...

I KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED, THUNDERER. I AM TRULY SORRY FOR YOUR SON'S DEATH. I WISH... I WISH... SO MUCH...

...ONLY NOW IT'S TOO LATE FOR WISHING.

I AM OLD BEFORE MY TIME, MY FRIEND, AND I AM ALONE.

THAT CHOICE WAS YOURS, DRAGON LORD.

AND I HAVE PAID FOR IT. I LOOKED AT YOUR SON-- AT STEEL SERPENT-- AND I SAW MYSELF. I, TOO, HATED AND FEARED IRON FIST-- AT TIMES, I EVEN WISHED HIM DEAD.

BECAUSE I THOUGHT THAT-- ONE DAY-- HE WOULD RETURN TO K'UN-LUN AND TAKE FROM ME MY HEART'S DESIRE.

I MUST HAVE BEEN MAD.

TO HAVE KNOWN DANIEL RAND FOR HALF HIS LIFE AND YET NOT KNOW THE BOY AT ALL. HIS LIFE IS BOUND TO EARTH.

K'UN-LUN-- ALL WE ARE, ALL WE REPRESENT-- IS TO HIM NO MORE THAN A DREAM.

PERHAPS, MY LORD. BUT HE IS AN IMMORTAL SON OF AN IMMORTAL CITY...

...AND BOTH OUR STORIES ARE FAR FROM ENDED.



NEXT
ISSUE:

THE
COMING
OF

**CAPTAIN
BRITAIN**

